

**ABSTRACT**

A printing unit include a plurality of ink supply members for supplying inks different from each other to a printing area or printing area-like portion, and a plurality of detecting systems, each detecting an amount of the corresponding ink accumulated on the printing area or printing area-like portion. A control system controls the plurality of ink supply members to regulate an amount of ink supplied by each of the plurality of ink supply members so as to bring the amount of the corresponding ink accumulated into agreement with a predetermined value